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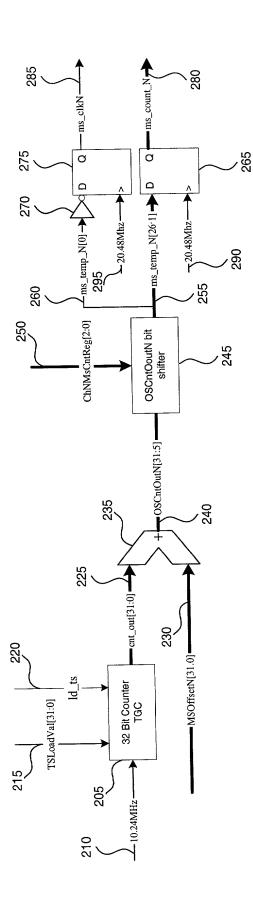
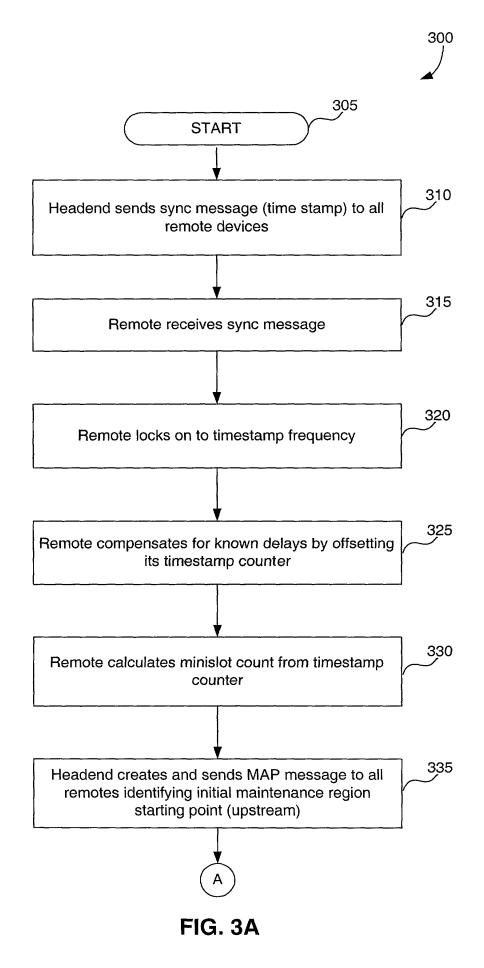


FIG. 2

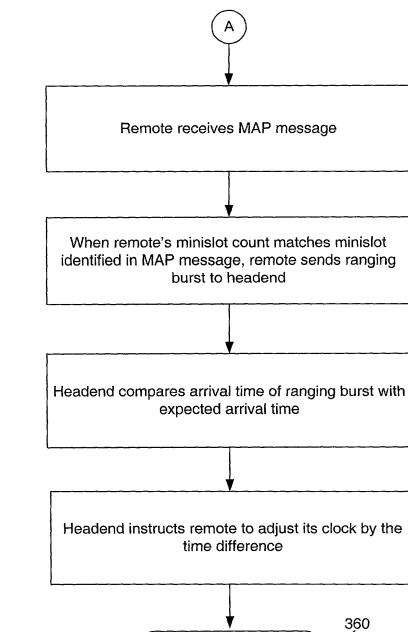
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RETURN

FIG. 3B



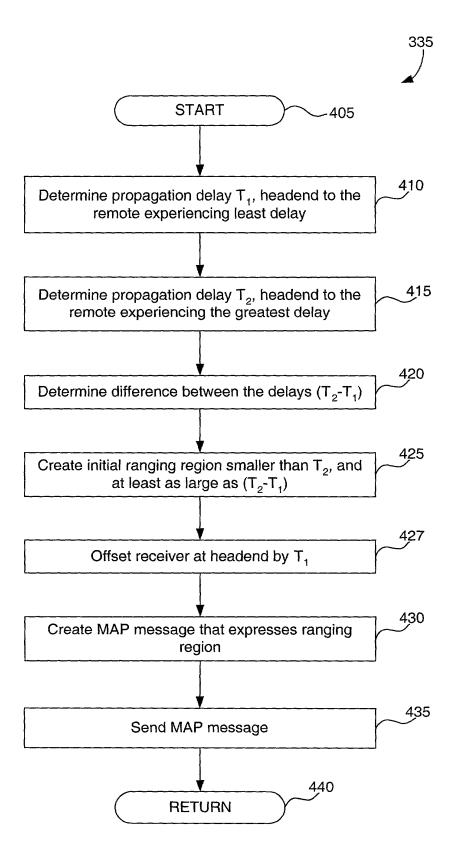


FIG. 4

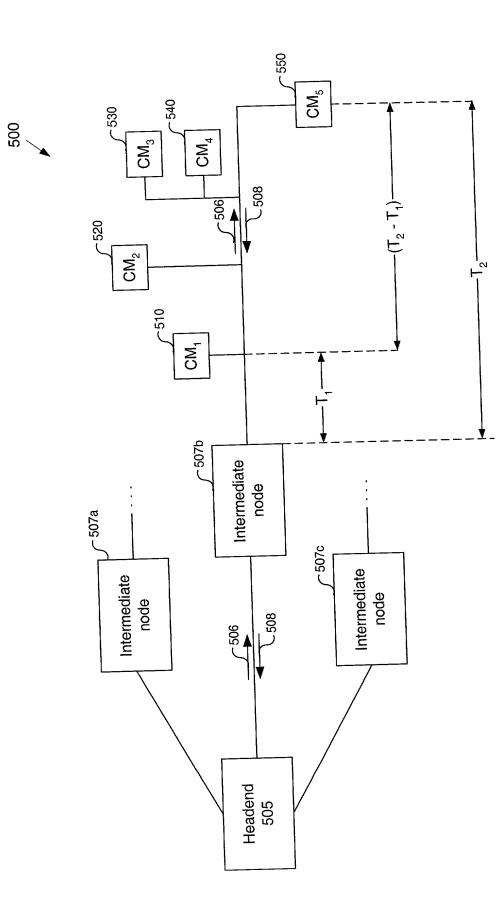


FIG. 5

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605 START 610 Headend sends sync message (time stamp) to all remote devices 615 Remote receives sync message 620 Remote locks on to timestamp frequency 625 Remote compensates for known delays by offsetting its timestamp counter 630 Remote calculates minislot count from timestamp counter 635 Headend creates and sends MAP message to all remotes identifying initial maintenance region starting point (upstream) FIG. 6A

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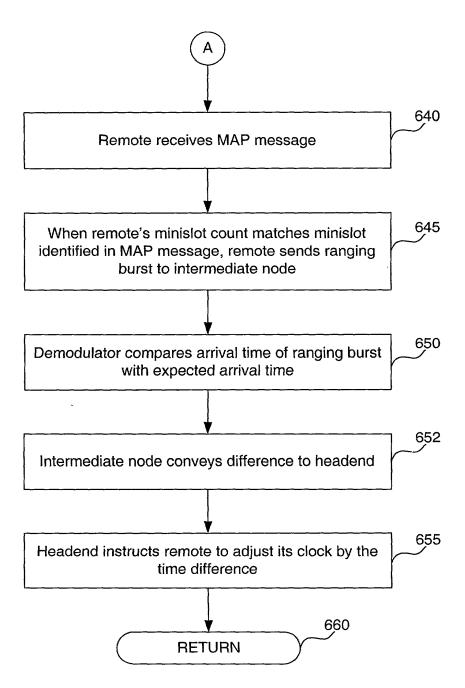
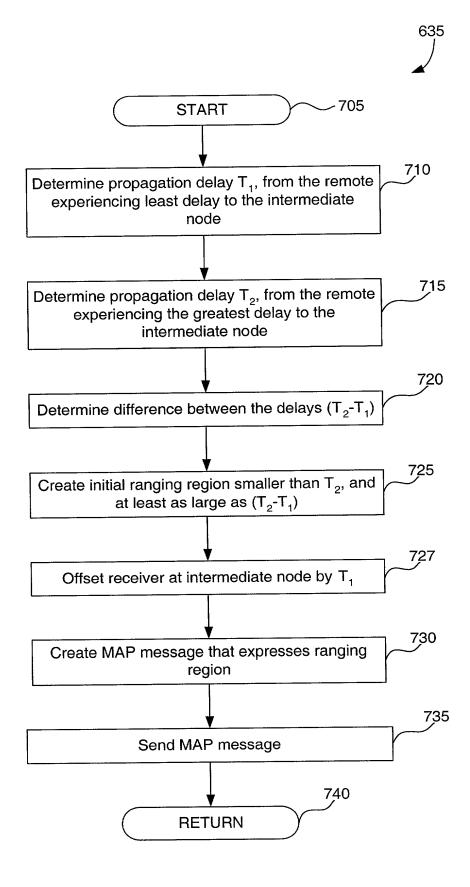


FIG. 6B



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